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Three killed in TA cafe bombing

By RAINE MARCUS and Jerusalem Post Staff

Security forces yesterday identified the suicide bomber who detonated a three-kilo TNT bomb packed with nails and pieces of metal in Tel Aviv on Friday as Moussa Ranimat, 28, of Kafr Yasur near Hebron. Ranimat's orange identity card was found on the terrace of the wrecked Apropro cafe.

A closure was imposed on the territories immediately following the attack, and the investigation of the case was transferred from the Tel Aviv police to the General Security Service. The home of Ranimat, a member of Hamas for the past two years, was sealed.

Hamas claimed responsibility for the blast, in a phone call to Channel

GSS chief Ami Ayalon met Friday night with Palestinian Authority security heads and demanded they immediately rearrest some 150 security prisoners released by the PA over the past two weeks.

Three women were killed in the explosion on the cafe terrace. Forty-eight people were wounded, most of them suffering moderate to light wounds; 19 victims were still hospitalized yesterday.

Anat Winter-Rosen, 32, a Herzliya lawyer and the mother of Shani, a six-month-old girl who was also wounded in the blast, died from her wounds at Ichilov Hospital. Dr. Michal Avrahami, 32, of Tel Aviv, a Wolfson Hospital radiologist, died shortly after being taken to hospital. She was pregnant with her first child and her husband and mother-in-law were recovering at Ichilov from moderate wounds. The third victim was Yael Gilad, 32, of Neveh Monosson.

Avrahami is to be buried this afternoon at 2 at Tel Aviv's Kiryat Shaul Cemetery. Rosen is to be buried at 3 at Kfar Nahman Cemetery, near Ramatana. The time of Gilad's funeral has not yet been announced.

Investigators said Ranimat had worked in two Rishon LeZion restaurants. The owners of one, Formaggio, were arrested and questioned. Ranimat had been investigated recently for suspected membership in Hamas.

The bag he carried containing the bomb was apparently given to him on the way to the packed Apropro cafe, sources said; he did not bring it from his village. Usually suicide bombers chosen by terror organizations are single, and Ranimat, the father of four, did not fit the profile. He had permit to work in Israel.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, who arrived at the scene of the blast at the busy



Police and Hevra Kadisha workers sift through the terrace of Tel Aviv's Apropro cafe after Friday's suicide bombing.

intersection of Ben-Gurion and Adam Hachohen streets, blasted Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat for giving the green light to terror organizations and for failing to prevent attacks.

"He does not have to give the go-ahead to terror organizations," said Kahalani, who lives near the Apropro restaurant but was not at home at the time of the blast. "It is sufficient that he just winks at them."

He was insistent that the Har Homa building project continue. "We will not stop building in Jerusalem, nor anywhere else and will certainly not surrender to terrorists and their threats. It is known

that [the Palestinians] want to drive us into the sea and out of the country. We will not be driven into the sea."

A warning that an attack would take place in Tel Aviv had been received the previous evening, but no specific details were given, he added.

The bomb was detonated at 1:45 p.m., just after the terrorist sat at a table on the cafe's terrace. Because the explosion occurred outside, there were probably far fewer casualties than if Ranimat had been able to find an inside table, police said.

The blast, which was heard

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PM:
This is
not peace

By MICHAL YUDELMAN and JON IMMANUEL

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will convene a meeting of the inner cabinet today to discuss the security situation following Friday's terrorist attack in Tel Aviv. The meeting comes following Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's meeting with top security brass yesterday.

Netanyahu, who fingered the Palestinian Authority as being responsible for the attack, is demanding that it rearrest 150 leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad in the territories who have recently been released.

In a terse telephone conversation with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, Netanyahu demanded that he act immediately to return the terrorist leaders to prison. Arafat had initiated the call, to express his condolences.

PA officials condemned the attack, but blamed Netanyahu for creating the conditions which encouraged it. They also rejected charges that Arafat had given Hamas a "green light."

"The cabinet denounces the Tel Aviv attack, but at the same time it denounces the acts of destroying the peace process that creates an atmosphere which encourages violence and violent people on both sides," said Palestinian Planning Minister Nabil Shaath.

An angry Netanyahu told reporters after the attack that security services warned a few days ago that terrorist organizations had received the go-ahead from the PA to carry out attacks against Israel.

"The Palestinian Authority will have to change its ways, and very soon. It will have to understand we will not agree to proceed in this way, the political process will not continue at the same time as terrorist attacks. We are not prepared to call this peace. This is not peace, in which our women and children get bombed," he said.

The prime minister said the government will decide how to act against the terrorists and how to proceed with the peace process after holding consultations with defense officials. He accused Arafat of taking no action to stop the ter-

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Yael Gilad (Barkai Wolfson/Courtesy of 'Ma'ariv')



Anat Winter-Rosen (Barkai Wolfson/Courtesy of 'Ma'ariv')



Michal Avrahami (Koko/Courtesy of 'Ma'ariv')

Two days of clashes in Hebron leave over 100 wounded

By JON IMMANUEL and MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Hundreds of Palestinians rushed the area between Palestinian and Israeli-controlled Hebron in three separate onslaughts yesterday and Friday, leaving dozens of Palestinians and several Israelis wounded.

But both sides kept to their respective zones, avoiding any direct contact that might have escalated the riots.

Hebron's Alya Hospital reported treating 92 people wounded in yesterday's clashes, including 10 who were in serious condition, suffering from bullet wounds.

The IDF said soldiers fired some five bullets when "their lives were in

danger." Twelve soldiers and border policemen and an Israeli boy were lightly wounded in the two days of clashes, the army said.

The IDF imposed a complete closure on the territories on Friday afternoon. In addition, it imposed a curfew on H2 - the area of Hebron still under Israeli control - and ordered Palestinians in H1 - the area under Palestinian control - and H2 to remain in their homes.

Jewish residents in Hebron were free to travel within the community, the IDF Spokesman said last night. The Machpelah Cave was open yesterday for prayers but due to the curfew imposed on the Palestinian sector, only Waqf leaders were permitted to pray there.

There were also clashes in the Aida refugee camp in Bethlehem on Friday evening. An Israeli girl was injured by glass splinters when the car she was in was hit by a stone near Ramallah. A policeman was hurt by a stone by El Anroub camp near Hebron.

Clashes in Hebron started Friday morning, when a large crowd surged towards Beit Hadassah, throwing hundreds of stones, Hebron Jewish community spokesman Noam Amon said.

According to Amon, during the first hours, IDF troops didn't intervene.

He said the Palestinian policemen present in the crowd of rioters did nothing to stop them.

When IDF soldiers began to push the rioters back, they were hit with rocks and firebombs. Settlers claimed that IDF troops fired tear gas and rubber bullets towards the rioters, but Palestinians threw rocks and tear gas canisters back towards the soldiers.

Later in the afternoon, OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan and OC Judea and Samaria Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ophir visited the area.

According to the IDF Spokesman, Dayan and other high ranking officers met with Palestinians including Haj Ismail Jabr, the West Bank police commander, on Friday night, demanding that the Palestinian Police prevent disturbances in the areas under their control. Dayan would not comment yesterday.

The Friday clashes stopped soon after 2 p.m., when news of the suicide bombing in Tel Aviv apparently compelled the Palestinian Police to control the rioters.

Yesterday, Palestinian policemen seemed to allow the stone throwers to continue for about two hours during each of two waves of rioting, before coming in force to move them from the scene, only grabbing

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When terror strikes 'people like us'

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

There it was, that unmistakable sound. In the midst of a peaceful Friday afternoon, I was sitting in my north Tel Aviv apartment talking on the telephone, holding my six-month-old baby on my lap.

"I just heard a loud bang," I told my friend. "Please let it be a sonic boom," I added, addressing a higher power.

But, of course, it wasn't. The horrid noise that I and all of my neighbors had heard was the terrorist attack that we, along with the entire country, expected to happen ever since the first bulldozer began to dig at Har Homa.

We expected something to happen. We just didn't expect it to happen so close to home.

The Apropro cafe is about five blocks from my house. So the explosion was bound to come to the fainter "bang" I'd heard precisely a year ago when a suicide bomber chose Dizengoff Center as his target. Closer to home than any of many terrorist attacks I'd covered as a reporter. Closer to home in more than a simple geographic sense.

This was the first incident in which maintaining journalistic distance from the event and its victims was utterly impossible — because I knew in my heart that it could have been me.

It was sheer luck that I had chosen to stay inside on that sunny Friday, instead of pushing the baby in his stroller and going to meet friends in

a local cafe as I had many times before; just like the women killed in the attack — all of whom were my age, and one of whom had a baby the age of my son.

Blackly ironic, considering that a recent advertising campaign by the Apropro chain aimed at a potential yuppie clientele touted it as a place where one could hang out with "people just like you."

Apparently, Hamas has embarked on a publicity campaign similar to that of the restaurant chain — only instead of drawing us in to feast on blintzes and salads, their goal is to inform the Israeli media, cultural, business, and political elite that populate my neighborhood that "people just like us" are not out of their reach. That we are not secure simply because we don't live on the northern border, or in the territories, or in Jerusalem; or because we don't ride early-morning buses, or hang out in crowded downtown shopping malls like Dizengoff Center.

None of that, they are telling us, keeps us safe. They know where we live. And they are reminding us that despite our upscale gourmet shops, our countless espresso bars, and our trendy little boutiques — we live in the Middle East, too.

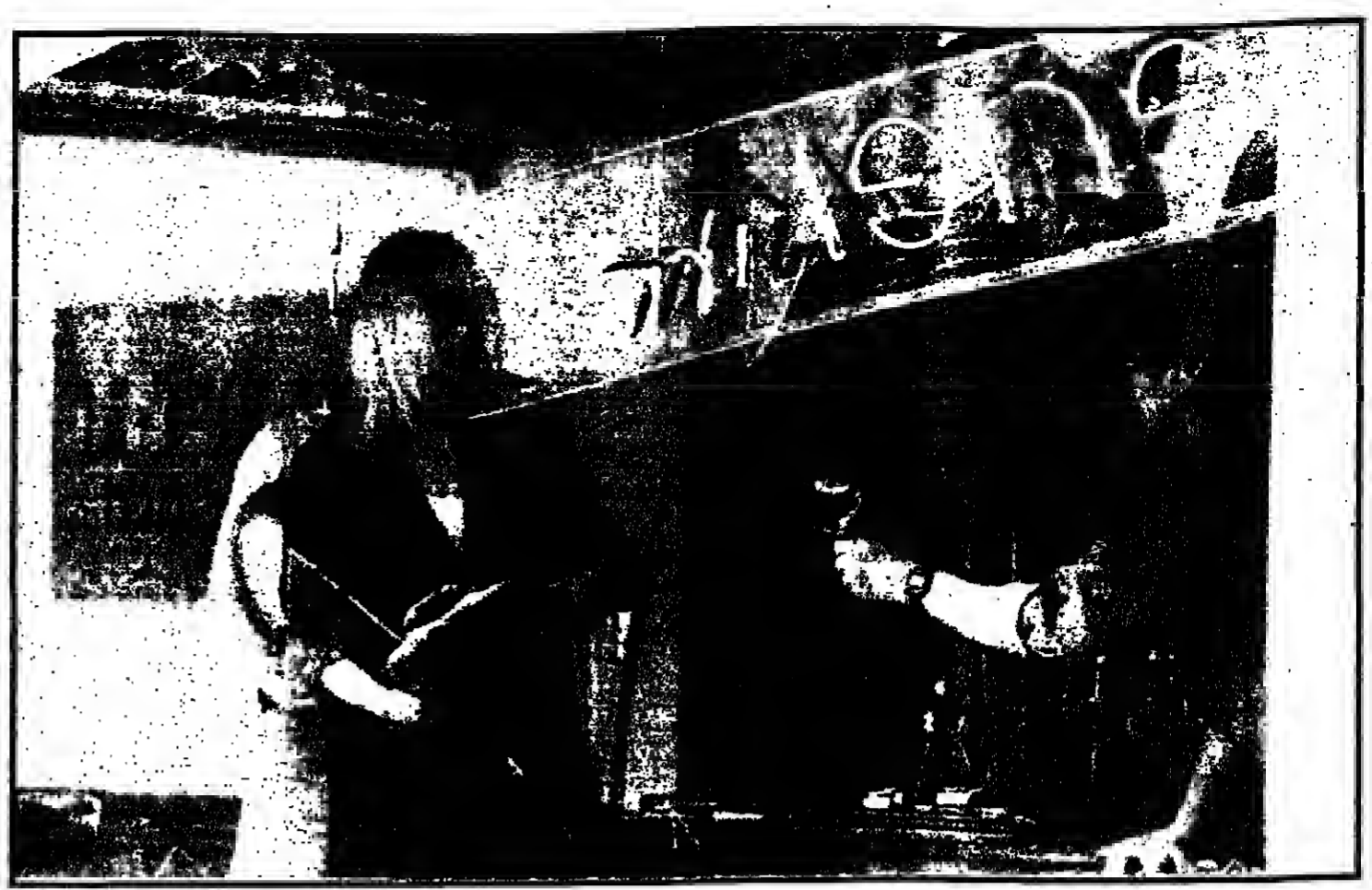
It could have been the nature of the neighborhood, or the fact that the attack came as far less of a surprise than other bombs in Tel Aviv, but the crowd that gathered at the scene of the blast afterward was unusually quiet, subdued, and well-behaved, standing politely behind the barriers

the police had erected.

There were a few members of the rightist "rent-a-mob" that tends to show up after these events. There were taken cries and signs reading "Death to Arabs," "Left-wingers go home" and even "Bibi must resign," but they were quickly swallowed up in the crowd, and after a few hours, faded away.

The vast majority of people came in the evening, as I did, staring silently as workers began sweeping up the shards of glass from the whitewashed porch of the building. A few wore Purim costumes, heading to or from celebrations, others wore their daily costumes of leather jackets, pointy boots, designer eyeglass frames and other marks of Tel Aviv trendiness.

After a time, I walked the five blocks to my apartment, aware of the absurd fact that while my neighbors and I could feel safe heading home on these dark empty streets — the next time we entered a sunny crowded cafe filled with laughing, chatting "people like us," we would feel afraid.



Workers cleaning up Tel Aviv's Apropro cafe yesterday examine a glass that somehow withstood the concussion of Friday's suicide bombing. (AP)

Apropro owners vow to reopen today

By SUE FISHKOFF

Workers were busy sweeping away debris and replastering the patio ceiling at the Apropro restaurant at 75 Sderot Ben-Gurion in Tel Aviv yesterday afternoon, as restaurant co-owner Dedi Golan vowed to reopen the upscale eatery today.

"We want to show that the people of Israel won't collapse in the face of terror," he stated. "We will return to normalcy as soon as possible, to the extent that we are able."

A crew of 20 workers began repairs as soon as the last of the wounded were removed from the scene on Friday afternoon. They worked through most of Friday night and all day yesterday, replacing broken windows, painting and plastering, and polishing the outdoor tiled patio to remove the traces of Friday's suicide bombing.

The Apropro restaurant and its second-floor gallery opened just last summer, following a two-year renovation of the historic Bauhaus building in which they are situated (see sidebar). Damage to the building was initially estimated at NIS 400,000, but Golan said that figure is not final. Workers were concentrating yesterday on fixing up the ground-floor restaurant first.

Blown-out windows on the second-floor art gallery were still covered with plastic sheeting and masking tape. No artwork was damaged, Golan said, except for one painting that fell off the wall.

A team of psychologists is set to meet with the restaurant staff this morning, before the doors reopen.

Next door, at 73 Sderot Ben-Gurion, Sigi Nachmias was standing on her balcony yesterday afternoon, surveying the bomb site that lay a mere six meters from her first-floor

apartment. Nachmias was still nursing a bandaged left arm, and her face was crossed with cuts she received the explosion sent shards of glass across her living room. She was treated at Beilinson Medical Center, and returned to her badly-damaged apartment some hours later.

Shattered glass from windows, mirrors and perfume bottles lay all over her living room and bedroom floors, and chunks of plaster had been ripped out of the wall nearest to the blast.

"When I'm outside, I don't feel that affected, but as soon as I step into the house, I feel the shock all over again," she said. The front door of her building was standing open, and broken glass littered the stairwell. All the apartments in the building suffered window damage.

The mood yesterday at the site was low-key, with only a few scattered political arguments to mar the somber, if curious atmosphere. Tel Aviv resident Israel Alexander was one of those who stopped by to survey the situation. He had been visiting a friend in a nearby apartment Friday, and heard the bomb blast.

"I thought, how strange that it should thunder in the middle of a heat wave," he said, then added: "The Palestinians as a whole aren't to blame for this. It happens all over. Look at the Basques and northern Ireland. There are crazy people in every country."

"And where was this guy from? Hebron, right?" showed a young man standing next to Alexander. "Of course the Palestinians are responsible. It's not just one person, it's all of them."

Alexander shrugged. "I've known Palestinians for 40 years, and I say, you can't control what one crazy person will do."

BACKGROUND

Building's history comes full circle

By SUE FISHKOFF

When Tel Aviv's Apropro restaurant/gallery opened in the historic Beit Hannah building at 75 Sderot Ben-Gurion last summer, it marked the triumphant revival of one of the city's best-known examples of classic Bauhaus architecture.

Built as a boarding school for kibbutz girls in 1934, Beit Hannah was founded by Hannah Chizhik, an educator, Poalei Zion activist, and early leader of the Histadrut, who founded a number of girls' agricultural schools in pre-state Israel.

According to Tel Aviv resident Helen Berman, a volunteer tour guide for the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, a field behind the school was used as a farm, including a cowshed.

The girls would sell the milk, fruit, and vegetables they grew from a small store at the entrance to the school, in order to finance their education. Eventually the school closed and the building fell into disuse. It was abandoned, and stood empty for more than a decade.

About five years ago, according to neighbor Shraga Steinberger, interest in Bauhaus buildings began to stir, and renovations were started on Beit Hannah. "It's a wonderful

example of classic Bauhaus architecture," he says.

A third floor, which had been added to the original structure, was torn down, and the building was restored and repainted to look as it did when it was first built. In May 1994, an international Bauhaus conference held in Tel Aviv was based at Beit Hannah, although restoration was not yet complete. Two years ago, developers for Apropro took over the job, and the restaurant and upstairs gallery opened their doors in the summer of 1996.

History has a strange way of coming full circle. The Chizhik family figured largely in early Zionist history. Hannah's brother, Ephraim, worked on the construction of the power station at Naharayim in the early 1920s, and was instrumental in establishing good relations with the neighboring Arabs. He was killed defending the Hula settlement during the Arab riots of 1929.

Hannah's sister, Sarah, died defending the Upper Galilee settlement of Tel Hai from Arab marauders on 11 Adar 1920. The anniversary of her death fell this year on March 20, just one day before the terrorist bomb attack on the historic girls' school that bears her sister's name.

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Yeltsin: Russia wants to join EU

Zaire rebel tells UN envoy 'no ceasefire'

News agencies
HLSINKI — President Boris Yeltsin, returning home to charges he capitulated on NATO enlargement at a summit with the United States, said yesterday Moscow was prepared to join the European Union. Yeltsin's unexpected comment came a day after he agreed with US President Bill Clinton to push for a fuller role for Moscow in a number of world economic bodies, and came even though Russia has not officially applied for EU membership. "Russia is also aiming to be recognized finally as a full European state and we are also prepared to join the European Union," he told reporters after meeting Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari. Ahtisaari, whose country joined the EU in 1995, said Yeltsin had also mentioned EU membership for Russia in bilateral talks before the Russian president left for

Moscow. Russia opposes NATO's plans to invite ex-Soviet bloc states to join but is less concerned about them becoming EU members. Several EU officials have expressed doubts that Russia, the world's largest country, would ever be able to join the Union. A spokesman for the European Commission, the EU's executive body, said it "takes note" of Yeltsin's statement and added the 15 EU foreign ministers may discuss it at a meeting tomorrow. Yeltsin acknowledged yesterday his failure to win President Clinton's promise that no former Soviet republic will ever be allowed to join NATO. "But nevertheless, we decided that we must not destroy the partnership between our two countries, the United States and Russia. This partnership must be strengthened for sake of our people, the safety of Europe and the entire world," he told

reporters. Russia has managed to win other concessions from Clinton, notably the promise that NATO's nuclear weapons and conventional forces will not move to the east when the alliance accommodates former Soviet satellites in Central and Eastern Europe. Hobbled by a knee injury, Clinton held an intense day of talks with the Russian leader, who is recovering from heart surgery. Sitting side by side at a news conference Friday evening — Clinton a head lower in a wheelchair — the two men often smiled at each other. Yeltsin referred to Clinton as "Bill" on several occasions. The presidents agreed to secure passage of the START II nuclear-missile treaty in the Russian State Duma, a longtime goal of the US administration, and pledged that they will go even further. Asked whether the lower house of parliament finally would pass it, Yeltsin tersely

answered: "I believe that the State Duma will make a decision based on my advice." Clinton also said he would push for Russia's membership in international economic organizations. Yeltsin already is invited to the annual summit of the G-7 industrialized nations — renamed the "Summit of the Eight" — being held in Denver this June. He still will not be granted full membership. Clinton and Yeltsin also agreed to improve economic ties, including membership in the World Trade Organization in 1998. Clinton, who left the Finnish capital Friday night, was lifted back into Air Force One in a catering truck. He returned to Washington early yesterday. Yeltsin, accompanied by his wife Naina, stayed on for a day of meetings Saturday with Finnish leaders. He left Helsinki on Saturday afternoon aboard his new presidential plane, a huge Il-96.

KISANGANI (Reuters) — Zairean rebel leader Laurent Kabila and a roaring crowd of 10,000 supporters firmly told a UN envoy yesterday there would be no ceasefire with the government before negotiations. Kabila used his first speech since arriving in the northeastern capital of Kisangani on Friday to deliver the firm "no ceasefire" message to UN envoy Mohamed Sahnoun, who arrived during the rally. "People accuse me of being an extremist because I don't want a ceasefire, but it is the people who don't want to have a ceasefire," he told Sahnoun before an estimated 10,000 people. Sahnoun, who had just arrived by plane from Nairobi, was taken straight to the stadium where the rally was in progress and was ushered on stage during Kabila's speech but looked unperturbed. "Do you want a ceasefire?" Kabila asked the jubilant crowd. "Advance, forward," his boisterous supporters roared back. "There will be no ceasefire before negotiations," Kabila earlier told reporters, sticking to his demand for talks with ailing President Mobutu Sese Seko or his representative before any truce. Diplomats said Sahnoun, joint special envoy of the United Nations and Organisation of African Unity, was believed to be carrying new ceasefire proposals to Kabila. They said Sahnoun

would probably fly to Kinshasa after talks with Kabila. A political source told Reuters that Kabila was coming under heavy pressure to call a ceasefire, particularly after Mobutu said on Thursday he no longer ruled out talks with the rebels. But many ordinary Zaireans are eager for a change from poverty and hardship under Mobutu, are openly rallying to Kabila, who has said the central diamond capital of Mbuji-Mayi and Zaire's second city Lubumbashi in the southeast are next in his sights. Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFZ) has seized more than one-fifth of Zaire, Africa's third-largest country, since October. Since the fall of Kisangani last weekend, rebels have seized Yangambi, 100 km west of the city and Kabinda, 100 km east of Mbuji-Mayi, Kabila told yesterday's rally. In an apparent attempt to strengthen his political position before negotiations, Kabila appealed to opposition leaders to join his revolt and argued the ADFZ had achieved more by taking up arms than the opposition politicians in the capital Kinshasa. He said he demanded a transitional government composed entirely of ADFZ members and any opposition politicians who did not join the rebellion would be considered Mobutu's allies.

Islamic group massacres 32 civilians

ALGIERS (AP) — A group of Islamic militants armed with sabres and axes slit the throats of 32 civilians and then beheaded some of them, independent newspapers reported yesterday. The attackers took only half an hour on Wednesday to wreak havoc in a village near Ksar El Boukhari, 150 km south of Algiers, the French language dailies *El Watan* and *Liberte* reported. The newspapers said the victims, including 16 women, came from four different families. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks, which were not reported by the pro-government media. The deaths come less than week after up to 18 civilians died in bomb attacks in and around the Algerian capital, according to hospital sources speaking on condition of anonymity. There was no claim of responsibility for the deaths, but the methods resemble those used by Islamic militants. Algerian security forces last Sunday reported killing nearly 50 Islamic militants as a part of their crackdown on a 5-year-old insurgency against the military-backed government. Security forces have been waging an offensive against the militants since the Moslem holy month of Ramadan, during which bombings in Algiers and massacres in villages left some 400 people dead. Ramadan ended Feb. 9. More than 60,000 people have been killed since the start of the insurgency, which was triggered by the army's decision to cancel 1992 legislative elections that Moslem fundamentalist parties were poised to win. Fundamentalist parties have been banned from new legislative elections scheduled for June 5.



An Albanian refugee disembarks with his son at Brindisi, Italy. Nearly 11,000 refugees have arrived in Italy recently. (Reuters)

Albania PM rebuffs call for Berisha ouster

TIRANA (Reuters) — Albanian Prime Minister Bashkim Fino yesterday rebuffed rebels holding the south of the country by dismissing their calls for President Sali Berisha to quit. But he said he was ready to open a dialogue with the rebels who have taken over at least 14 towns in southern Albania. Fino said Berisha's resignation would cause a power vacuum in a country still reeling from weeks of looting and shooting by Albanians angry at the loss of their savings in collapsed pyramid investment schemes. Italy promised to send emergency health supplies to Albania at the weekend following a request from Fino. The Foreign Ministry in Rome said the supplies, in the form of health kits, would be enough for 300,000 people for a month. No aid had arrived yesterday morning, although an Italian air force transport plane flew in a further group of "undesirable" Albanian refugees expelled from Italy. Fino said in an interview that the government, rather than wanting Berisha to quit, had more pressing tasks in restoring order, distributing humanitarian aid and preparing for elections in June. Fino, a member of the opposition Socialist Party, was appointed by Berisha last week to lead an interim national unity government ahead of the elections. But he has been locked in a power struggle with Berisha's Democrats who control 122 of the 140 seats in parliament after elections last May that international observers said were deeply flawed. "The government has a more important mission than asking for the president's resignation," Fino said. "It would create an institutional vacuum if Berisha were to resign." Opposition leaders have made it clear that they want an end to Berisha's presidency, but they would prefer this was brought about by democratic means. Berisha himself has promised to quit if his party loses the June election. Fino was speaking a day after rebel leaders from 14 towns in southern Albania issued a fresh call for Berisha to resign, but pulled back from a confrontation with the government. Albania's unrest blew up first in the south after steady pyramid investment schemes collapsed and left thousands of families destitute. Angry Albanians looted guns from army barracks and took control of their towns.

Beatles memorabilia clean up in Tokyo

TOKYO (AP) — The suit that John Lennon wore on stage went for 4.3 million yen (\$35,000). Paul McCartney's custom-made bass guitar went for 25 million yen (\$200,000). Such was the order of the day in a hard night of bidding at the "Beatles for Sale" auction in Tokyo yesterday, billed as the first major rock 'n' roll auction devoted entirely to the Fab Four. Thousands more had the opportunity to take part as the auction was transmitted by satellite around the world. The bid for Lennon's gray collarless suit at four times the estimated value set by event-organizer Bonham's sent a gasp through the Tokyo Auction Hall, crammed with some 200 people. "I feel sad because it's just becoming a contest of egos between a handful of people in London, New York and Tokyo," said Toru Baba, a young long-haired man with Lennon spectacles, who lost in a bid for Lennon's guitar strap, estimated at \$4,000. The guitar strap sold to a bidder over the telephone for \$16,000. Baba shouted, "I give up," with a smile. Men in sober suits and women with jingling jewelry took center stage in the bidding. Sonae Okanawa, who sleeps with items from his Beatles memorabilia collection, intended to add more goodies to his hoarding but had to give up. "It's incredible. These people are not specialists of Beatles memorabilia. They just don't know the value of what they're buying," said Okanawa, a 47-year-old designer. John Lennon's 1970 Mercedes-Benz limousine went for 40 million yen (\$324,000). An autographed Beatles publicity photo from 1964 went for \$13,000. But the Steinway piano that Lennon used to compose the tune, *Imagine*, went unsold after the initial price tag of 38 million yen (\$308,000) was announced and met silence from the crowd. The former Beatles have said they are less than happy about their relics becoming collectors' fodder. In January, Paul McCartney blocked the sale of the lyrics of *With a Little Help from My Friends*, citing original ownership of the song he and the late Lennon wrote. A former road technician's widow had found the lyrics among her husband's belongings. And one of the hottest items in the auction, a draft of *Penny Lane*, was pulled back after McCartney won a court order blocking its sale Friday night.

Papua New Guinea mercenary questioned

PORT MORESBY (AP) — Police in Papua New Guinea yesterday questioned the leader of a mercenary force hired by the government to quash a secessionist rebellion. Police released British military consultant Tim Spicer after five hours of questioning. He was charged with possessing an unlicensed pistol and ordered to appear in court tomorrow. Spicer's detention raised the prospect of criminal charges relating to the use of foreign forces to end a rebellion on Bougainville, an island 1,300 km northeast of the capital, Port Moresby. Spicer is the last of the mercenaries remaining in Papua New Guinea. The military deported the other remaining British and South African mercenaries under his command, ignoring orders by Prime Minister Julius Chan. Chan's government signed a US \$36 million military contract with British-based military consulting firm — Sandline International — to train the army in counter-insurgency warfare and to take part in a major attack. The army, which is badly funded and ill-equipped, claims the deal signed by Spicer and the government was illegal and unconstitutional. The national crisis over the contract heightened this week when the army's leader, Brig. Gen. Jerry Singirok, ordered his forces not to cooperate with the mercenaries hired by Chan's government. Chan retaliated by firing Singirok and accusing him of treason. The dismissal ignited two days of rioting in Port Moresby, 800 km north of Cairns, Australia. Singirok, in turn, called for Chan's resignation. Singirok said an investigation ordered by the government into the use of the foreign soldiers would be impartial only if Chan steps down. But an army leader loyal to Singirok ruled out direct use of force by the army should Chan ignore the call to resign by the time Parliament convenes on Tuesday. The army leader who claims to be in charge of the troops now — Maj. Walter Enuma — said yesterday the defense forces consider the crisis to be political.

Gator kills 3-year-old

LAKE ASHBY, Florida (AP) — The body of a 3-year-old boy was found yesterday near a 3.5-meter alligator that authorities suspect snatched the child as he played in shallow water with his brother and a dog. A trapper who hunts so-called nuisance alligators found Adam Trevor Binford's body about a kilometer from the spot where he was last seen Friday. "The boy was not eaten," said Volusia County Sheriff's Department Capt. Randy Burnsed. However, authorities refused to release details of the boy's injuries. The alligator was killed. Adam's mother, 31-year-old Lorri Binford, told authorities that the boy was standing in knee-deep water Friday, playing with 8-year-old brother Evan and a dog. Ms. Binford said she heard a large splash, and when she looked over at her children, Adam was gone. Sheriff's divers and a helicopter crew searched until nightfall at the lake, about 30 km northeast of Orlando. The body was found after the search resumed yesterday. Alligators are known to attack small animals and a 3-year-old boy would be about the size of prey large alligators would pounce on, said Lt. Joy Hill, a spokeswoman for the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Since the game commission began keeping records in 1943, there have been 225 alligator attacks on humans, but only seven were fatal.

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US

Continued from Page 2
 "I am convinced that this atrocious tragedy will not dissuade the Israeli and Palestinian people from the pursuit of peace, which is now more necessary than ever," Chirac said. Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi condemned the attack as an attempt to derail Middle East peace. "As in the past, terrorism has struck at innocent people in an attempt to hijack the peace process," Prodi said in a message of condolence to Netanyahu. "It is a flawed strategy & substantial boost to the negotia-

tion in Jerusalem and the occupied territories," its spokesman said in a statement. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak conveyed his condolences in a telephone call to President Ezer Weizman. The Egyptian news agency quoted Mubarak as saying that violent acts and killing the innocent were not conducive to peace. Jordan said violence only harmed efforts to attain peace in the region. "All acts of violence do not serve peace and by their nature result in harming all the efforts to restore the peace process to its right path towards...petra and comprehensive peace," Petra state news agency quoted an unnamed government spokesman as saying.

LIKUD

Continued from Page 2
 rages. The government must now announce that it is suspending all contacts with the PA until it receives airtight guarantees that the PA will in actual fact combat terrorism with all of its might and force. "Another Purim, another terror attack," said Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon shortly after hearing of the Tel Aviv cafe bombing Friday. "Once more an evil and

wicked hand has struck at innocent civilians, including young children. The Knesset bows in memory of the victims, sends condolences to the bereaved families and hopes for the speedy recovery of the injured," he said. Condemnation of the attack was expressed across the political spectrum. Communications Minister Limor Livnat (Likud) said: "The question of whether [Yasser] Arafat is in control on the ground should be thoroughly examined. And it will be very serious if he is not." Agriculture and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan (Ismet) said "terror and peace do not go together" and called for an end to contacts with the PA. National Religious Party faction chairman Hanan Porat said: "The despicable attack in Tel Aviv is a test to the government and the prime minister who has pointed an accusing finger at Arafat. The diplomatic process should be halted and reconsidered."

BOUNCES

Continued from Page 2
 right decision to continue as normal. In the same spirit, Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Min announced that Purim events would go on. And like Reuma, those hardy residents of Tel Aviv not immediately affected by the terrorist's bomb, defiantly stood up to the attempt to

disrupt everyday life, and announced that Purim would continue as usual. Grocery stores remained open and the panic seen and heard after previous attacks was missing. And all of yesterday, the owners and staff of Apropro worked to clean up the place, determined to get back to business today, an act that is as much a statement as it is business. It seems to have sunk in to the city's collective psyche that life in a metropolis inexorably rolls on, despite terrorism, despite everything. And that, sadly enough, terrorism is now part of our lives, like earthquakes and road deaths — here, there, everywhere. That Tel Aviv is no different from Paris, London, San Francisco or Oklahoma. So Cafe Apropro will be open today, and it's a fair guess its customers will be there, too.

In these times you cannot AFFORD to be without THE JERUSALEM POST

מרכז מגזין הצהר

THERE AND THEN

Memorial history

By SRAYA SHAPIRO

Visiting Tel Hai in 1928, where Josef Trumpeldor and his companions were murdered seven years earlier, Sir Alfred Mond (eventually Lord Melchett) felt disgraced. Only a simple plaque covered the tomb of the hero whose life and death kindled the imagination of innumerable followers in the pursuit of the Zionist dream.

Nine are honored by a memorial; the 10th, a member of the opposition Betar organization, has a separate tablet beside the Hanita remembrance monument. A statue designed by Yitzhak Danziger, erected besides the road leading from Rosh Pina to Safed, honors Shlomo Ben-Yosef, a Betar member who was hanged by the British for firing on an Arab bus in protest at numerous attacks by Arabs on Jewish targets.

Piqued by such a manifestation of private initiative, the Histadrut, as well as the Zionist organization, declared their intentions to erect a memorial worthy of its symbolic importance in Tel Hai. Finally, however, all three initiatives merged, and Melnikoff designed "The Roaring Lion," which since 1934 has been the focus of pilgrimages for youth movements.

The War of Independence, leaving thousands dead, spurred a profusion of memorials. It was apparently Moshe Dayan who suggested leaving in place the burned-out armored vehicles hit on their ascent to Jerusalem in 1948 (although they had to be repainted not very long ago to save them from utter corrosion).

Trumpeldor was a legend. Other victims of Arab terrorism never reached that status. Itana Shamir observes in *Hantzaha Vezikaron* ("Commemoration and Remembrance, published by Am Oved, 234 pp.), a study based on her doctoral thesis. Is it because the defenders of Tel Hai were regarded in their day as supporting a mission, an ideal, as opposed to, for example, the four killed in the Arab assault on Petah Tikva at about the same time, who were defending only their property and honored only by their families and Boei Binyamin, an organization of private farmers?

A special department was created in the Ministry of Defense to introduce some method for commemorating those killed in the line of duty. It opened under mounting pressure from associations of bereaved families and comrades of the fallen soldiers. "Our sons have made history, we want to see that they are honored," the Yad Labanim (Memorial for the Sons) group in Tel Aviv stressed. And prime minister David Ben-Gurion let it be known that he wished to mark, with a stone, every spot where an important event took place.

In the politically splintered Yishuv, politically motivated memorials were inevitable. But other elements, too, had their influences. Batya Lishansky, when she shaped the memorial for the Hulda victims of Arab attacks, made Ephraim Chizhik, one of the victims, the centerpiece of a naturalistic sculpture including Chizhik's sister (killed in Tel Hai) and a third, male, figure. She called her sculpture "Work and Defense," illustrating farm equipment at the foot of the monument.

Dr. Shamir estimates that over a thousand memorials of every sort are scattered all over Israel. Some are remarkable works of art, designed by a Danny Caravan or an Igal Tumarkin, which can only be seen from afar in the Negev or the Jordan Valley. Many are just huge rocks shaped by amateur acquaintances of local associations of mourners. Some are buildings, known as Yad Labanim, which serve as meeting places for cultural activities. Practically every army corps has a place which serves as a pilgrimage site, at which the memory of the fallen is periodically honored.

The symbol was appreciated in Labor circles, but the more traditionally inspired critics, were uneasy about displaying human figures in a Jewish memorial. However, there seems to have been few objections to the memorial to Alexander Zeld, who is represented riding a horse on top of a mountain in Galilee.

But we have no Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This is probably in keeping with the Jewish tradition that all dead must have an identified tombstone. So, at the insistence of bereaved families, the names of the fallen are inscribed on most memorials, whatever their artistic ambition. However, the collective memory is marked, the bitter unsubduing individual agony is epitomized in the few letters that compose a name.

HEADS 'N' TAILS

Pets as gifts

By DYORA BEN SHAUL

Puppies, kittens and other animals are not toys. They should never be given as gifts unless one knows exactly what their future is likely to be. It is amazing how many people have unwanted pets and are proud that they "got rid of them all" by giving them away, usually to neighborhood children.

In, cleaned up and taken to the veterinarian for injections, I make sure that whoever gets the animal pays for the inoculations. People who won't pay for these cannot be trusted to call a veterinarian if the animal is ill or properly provide for it.

In most cases, they did not ask the parents of the child if they wanted the responsibility of a small animal. The child "fell in love" with the puppy and they gave it to him without question. In most cases, the child assured them it would be "OK" with the parents. I often tell men who want to buy a puppy for their children that I would like to speak with their wives. In 99 percent of the cases I have observed, it is the wife who accepts the responsibilities entailed in keeping an animal.

It is not a very flattering criticism of humans, but people show more respect toward things for which they paid. When a puppy you bought makes a spot on the carpet, it is somehow less of a disaster than if it was by the dog someone just dumped on you.

So, except in special circumstances, I don't think animals should ever be given as gifts. Even when I have a stray animal that I have taken

Too many pets are given to enthusiastic children who bring them home, and the parents immediately throw them out. This is one of the reasons for so many stray animals on the streets. So, whether you have an unwanted litter or if you are looking for a home for a stray you have taken in, then advertise it wherever you can. But, specify that the new owners must pay, at least, for the inoculations and any medical care it has received. In this way you help assure the animal will get a proper home.

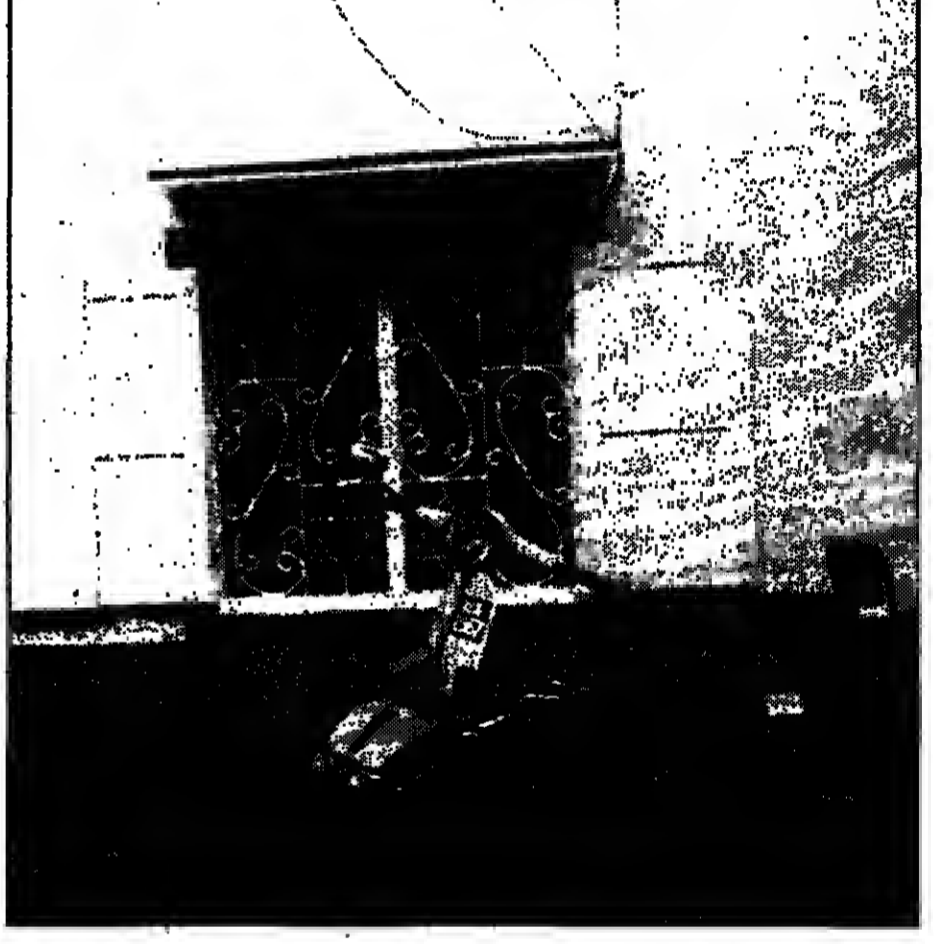


A Jewish family of Cochin in the early part of the century.

(Courtesy of Elias Madai)

The last Jews of Cochin

In southern India, a thousand-year-old Jewish community has enjoyed warm relations with its neighbors. Emily Kasriel meets the last Jews living in Cochin's Jewtown district



An iron window grille in Jewtown.

(Sara Manobla)

There are few places in the world where Jews can claim centuries of peaceful coexistence with the local population. The district of Jewtown in Cochin on the Malabar Coast of Southern India is one of them.

It is a community which has survived for more than a thousand years, witnessing successive waves of conquerors and traders, the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British. These foreigners, as well as the Jews who came before them, were enticed by the rich spices of this tropical coast: cardamom, cinnamon, ginger, and above all, pepper. But today most of the Jews have emigrated.

The current and probably last leader of the remaining community is Samuel Hallequa, whose own family came to Cochin in 1590 from Spain via Syria. When Samuel Hallequa, or Uncle Sammy as he's known in Jewtown, takes the two-minute stroll up Synagogue Lane to the Paradesi synagogue, he knows it is a walk that his ancestors have made for hundreds of years. "The whole street is home," he says. "We were an extended family more than a community, and so it was until the very end of this street."

Synagogue Lane is a narrow street protected from the tropical sun by old houses painted ochre, lime and sky blue. A generation ago most of them were lived in by Jewish families. Today antique shops are more common as there are only a few dozen Jews left. The majority have chosen to leave India and start a new life in one of the many Cochin Jewish communities in Israel.

Yet a strong sense of community still exists in Cochin. Sammy's wife, Queeny tempts foreign guests and friends who have known the family for generations with spicy delicacies unique to Cochin Jewry. Not chicken soup but chicken carry laced with

the hot chilies, coconut and coriander of Kerala. There is no contradiction as far as they are concerned in the pride Sammy and his community feel in being both Indian and Jewish; their Jewish identity is infused with the history of their ancestors in India. No one knows when Jews first came to settle in the Malabar coast; most scholars put it at over 1,500 years ago. When the Portuguese came here in the 16th century and threatened the Jews, it was the local Hindu maharaja who offered them sanctuary and land to build a synagogue.

Today the Paradesi Synagogue stands only a stone's throw away from the maharaja's temple as a living reminder of that act of welcome. The local Hindu population continues to speak of the Jews very fondly even though their numbers are so few. Professor Jussay, an Indian expert on the Jewish community, spoke of Cochin Jewry as a very long strand, although it is a thin strand, giving color to the whole fabric of Indian society.

Without the help of foreign Jewish visitors it can be difficult to make a minyan every Saturday, but festivals are celebrated with a joyous enthusiasm. There is no rabbi so Sammy leads the service and everyone joins in. There are prayer books hand-written in Hebrew as well as the local language of Malayalam, and many of the melodies sung are unique to Cochin Jewry.

The synagogue itself is over 400 years old and is covered with blue and white hand-painted floor tiles brought from China in the 18th century by one of Sammy's ancestors, Ezekiel Rahabi. Rahabi was a prominent member of the community who was also the foremost spice trader of the time and the representative of the Dutch East India company. Sammy is an effective leader of the community. He encourages young people to

learn more about their Jewish tradition and welcomes foreign dignitaries such as President Ezer Weizman, who visited last December. But there is no one to succeed him. His son David celebrated a traditional Cochin Jewish wedding last year, yet it was held in Los Angeles where he now lives. The few young people left believe that to live a full Jewish life they too will have to emigrate. Yet Sammy himself could never consider leaving Jewtown. "I've heard people who have gone for the first time to Israel

and breathed in the air [and] say something is different. For me this is where I want to live and the air I want to breathe. A fish out of water won't survive and I won't survive outside Cochin."

You can hear Emily Kasriel's documentary about Samuel Hallequa and the history of the Jews of Cochin on the Omnibus program of the BBC World Service radio on Monday March 24 at 11:30 a.m., repeated at 2:01 p.m., and on Tuesday 25th at 2:30 a.m. GMT.

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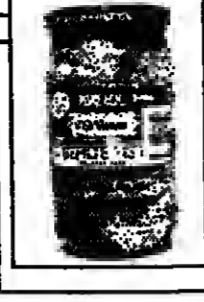
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Exclusive interview, Magazine



Ovadia Yosef's Ashkenazi roots
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Israel's NY envoy asks: 'Aht medaberet Ivrit?'
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You're doin' fine, Okla Homa

Dairy: Oh, what a beautiful shtetl

By ROGER HAMMERSTEIN
Following its fiasco in attempting to build a Jewish neighborhood in eastern Jerusalem, the government has launched a sequel to Har Homa.

Atlanta Braves mascot Chief Knock-a-Homa: They stole my name, Page 2

once again — this time, the new settlement of Okla Homa. "We know we belong to the land," crooned Bihl. "And the land we belong to is grand," chimed in Netan-Yahoo's senior adviser David Bar-None. The new neighborhood will be equally divided into secular and religious tracts. The latter group,

comprised mostly of farmers, intend to build fences to keep their livestock in place. "We sincerely hope that the secular won't build fences across our cattle ranges," said spokesman Rabbi Aryeh Dairy. To ensure peaceful coexistence, the government is sponsoring a box social where the farmers and the cowboys can get to know one another. "We'll get along fine," said Dairy, "as long as the square dancing is segregated. Our people dosey-do separately. "We also request that daylight savings time not be instituted to allow us the opportunity to pray *Shaharit* as well as sing "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning!" One sticking point may be transportation. The religious claim that only they are permitted to drive the survey, especially the one with the fringe on top. "That's fine," said farmer spokeswoman, Shulamit Annie Oakley. "Whenever Rabbi Dairy starts to talk purty, I can't say no."



Aryeh Dairy, home on the range.

Repetition again and again... and again

By LOIS and CLARK
At a press conference held yesterday, *The Jerusalem Pest* announced a startling new development in print journalism: The newspaper has learned to clone reporters. "We're tired of this uneven quality of writing," said editor-in-chief Geoff Gobreke. "So we took a poll, decided who our best two writers are, and then made 10 copies of each. It's kind of funny when they all show up at staff meetings, but we're getting used to it." This information would explain why ace reporter Jusie Seagull was seen simultaneously at a medical convention, a Brit and her dentist's. Similarly, the presence of David McKugel at the prime minister's press conference, a Betar soccer game and a backyard barbecue can now be understood without resorting to extraterrestrial explanations. "And the best part of it," jubilated managing-editor Carl Schrooge, "is that they're all the same people. We only have to pay

two salaries for the lot." Seagull was equally enthusiastic, but for different reasons. "I send two of them home every day to do the household chores and



pick up the kids. It's great." The down side was voiced by Ms. McKugel who has noticed an increase in her food bills and laundry loads. "There's also another problem," she said. "Can you imagine 11 Davids on Friday night all singing *Shalom Aleichem* off-key?"

Continued on Page 7



No more Mr. Nice Guy. Referees and coaches will be packing heat this track season. (AP)

Jumping the Gun

By NOMO JOHO
The International Olympic Committee has developed a novel approach to runners who make false starts: shoot them. "We're already the judges. Now we're going to be the executioners as well," said Cambodian referee Pot Shot. "Early starts have marred the game for years. All that steroid abuse. The runners can't keep still," he

said. "Plus, it's not like we shoot to kill or anything." In addition to incurring a fine, any athlete shot is automatically disqualified from that day's events. As Mr. Shot was speaking, an ambulance whisked away a young runner with an untimely case of the hiccups. "From now on, when they jump the gun, the gun is gonna jump right back. If they can't keep still, let 'em try out for the pole vault."

New revelations in Dairy-Bar-Off-Hebron-South Lebanon-Damascus-Law of Return-IDF motivation-Har Homa scandal

By AYALA 'SCOOP' CHALFEN

In a shocking announcement to the Knesset yesterday, Shas MK Aryeh Dairy declared that he will accept the appointment of a reform rabbi as Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem on condition that charges against him relating to the Bar-Off scandal relating to charges against him about fraudulent activity are dropped. "We have come to a deal," Dairy allegedly claimed. "The IDF will withdraw from Lebanon. Yossi Sorey will be given a house in Damascus, Syrian President Hafez al-Assad will be built a home on Har Homa, the Kotel will be opened to non-segregated prayer, the Law of Return will not be updated, Bar-Ilan Street will be closed on Shabbat, yeshiva students will serve in the army, IDF combat soldiers will be served Chinese food and Ora Nicheair will remain in China." Nobody was present at the plenum to hear his statement. However, a janitor, who is currently being questioned by the police, said he overheard Dairy's speech while removing manure from Eatingwell Sharon's seat. "That Sharon!" the cleaner said. "Can't he clean his shoes after mucking about his ranch?" After screaming about the mess Sharon makes every time he enters the Knesset, the cleaner said he heard Dairy exclaim that justice will be done and that there is no corruption in the government. In a later interview, Dairy downplayed the importance of his statement, saying he was speaking randomly from the podium, preparing his voice elevation for his upcoming defense at the Supreme Court. "These comments are outrageous and blatant lies," Knesset Speaker Dan Talkon told a Channel 1 interviewer in an off-the-record conversation. "I have almost a dozen of

The everyone's-in-on-it affair

my boys awaiting trial or on trial. I wouldn't believe a word that any of them say." Asked if this was a satisfactory response to this mindblowing compendium of payoffs which could only have been compiled in a sequence of back-room meetings, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kojakni said that leaking secret documents does not pose a threat to the country's security, clearly referring to Agriculture Minister Rafool Eitan's recent acquittal. Foreign Minister David Beitshean did not understand the question. Outside a father-and-son Purim fancy dress party, Prime Minister Binyamin Netan-Yahoo and his son Yair, both dressed up as Rav Ovadia Yossel, spoke to reporters. "I want to go back to the party, daddy," said the little Yossel, scratching his beard. "How does this man see through such dark lenses?" Netan-Yahoo senior replied. Neither appeared to grasp the seriousness of the situation which could cause a split in the coalition, a collapse of the government, a civil war, and the possibility of Elvis becoming prime minister. "We have to walk in the footsteps of peace. Love me tender," Elvis said in a heavy Polish accent. MK Shi-moan Peres was apparently under the Elvis Costume. Dairy is supposed to appear in the Knesset tomorrow to review his statement. Close aides say that in his usual style, he will probably not attend.

Hole-ly war averted at Education Ministry

By JERRY ATRICK

A major row at the Education Ministry was averted last night, following haredi complaints of "Trinitarian notebooks." "I was sitting in my office yesterday," said deputy director Moshe Tuschitzer, when three yeshiva students and their rabbi burst in on me, waving notebook paper in my face. At first, I thought they were going to set me alight. "We object to three-ring loose-leaf paper," said the leader, Rabbi Werfstein of the Bar-Ilan Hilltop

Yeshiva, "because it brings up associations with the Christian concept of the Trinity. If the children start writing on *goyische* stationery, what's to stop them from writing novels later on, like that *schmutzige yid*, Philip Roth?" When a compromise was suggested — the Rabbi at first objected because it still undermined the One God approach. He later agreed when it was pointed out that the two holes could be understood as two synagogues: the one he goes to, and the one he wouldn't be caught dead in.

The Prime Minister's office is looking for an
Au pair
Applicants should be courteous, hygiene-conscious, great cooks, have an aversion to talking to media, speak English and have sexy legs.
Call 555-NANNY Ask for Bibi

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THE JERUSALEM PEST

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Purim supplement
Editing, layout, design: David Brim, Jennifer Friedlin, Ahron Shapiro
Contributors: Jerusalem Post Staff

Launch Pampers, not missiles

Throwing dirty diapers has, over the past few months, become the latest Haredi weapon against the Shabbat-breaking public.

region's savior? Semites were born to quarrel turning those swords into diaper-firing splurge guns...

If the Altalema had been bringing diapers into Palestine in 1948 it is most likely that the Haggana would not have attacked the Etzel ship...

And just like the original, the entire story is played by kids. Kids because what sort of responsible, honorable adult would throw dirty diapers (unless they were throwing out the trash)?

And this is only before the birth of the state. Can you imagine the headlines of June 5 1967: "Entire Egyptian airforce splattered by diapers in preemptive Israeli strike?"

What's more, using diapers instead of missiles would save the countries in the region a fortune; war would be much less financially constrained...

The @\$\$t has literally hit the fan. But the dirty diapers have not helped close the case. Takeo to the Knesset, they sat on it (no pun intended) and then, not so promptly, referred it to the supreme court.

Sure the environmentalists aren't up in arms; the extra fertilizer is a delivery from God, true mamin-in-the-wilderness style.

But maybe, thinking about it more carefully, the revival of a (technologically updated) splurge gun is actually a blessing in disguise.

Not only are these homemade weapons more legal than a sawed-off shotgun, but the source of weapons are endless because the more babies you have, the more diaper bombs you can produce.

YOU CALL YOURSELF A PARENT?

Go on, snoop on your kids

By RUTH RAISIN

Our 38-year-old daughter has been acting strangely lately. She stays in her room a lot, keeps to herself and seems very secretive.

You know you want to
support as early as possible. When parents feel alone, they often feel helpless.

1. Talk to her. Ask her directly whether her life has improved significantly. There is no need to confront her about possible details. You could say something like, "You're not talking to us like you used to."

WE'RE RIGHT, YOU'RE WRONG

Oh no! They're coming for us

By DENNIS THE MENACE and DANGEROUS DAN

Reliable intelligence sources (i.e. our imaginations) have warned the writers of this column of a sinister plot to destroy Israel.

cold, wet winter's morning on Paris's Rue Aggrandissement, Sheva, disguised as a tea lady, uncovered a wicked scheme to deal a massive blow to the Jewish state.

VIEW FROM NOWHERE IN PARTICULAR

I've lost my train of thought

By MOISSE CONEHEAD

Some people will say that words like "scum" and "rotten" are wrong for Objective Journalism - which is true, but they miss the point.

How wonderful to find a good quote with an erudite excuse to put "sex" at the start of my weekly screed and so impress one's circle (albeit narrow) of enlightened friends...

Now where was I? Sex. No! I mean, yes. Sex was, of course, important in peopling the glorious Eretz Israel up to all its flexible but immovable frontiers.

Wherever those "frontiers" are at the moment, it is worth pausing to say "yah, boo, nady-naa" to alleged Rais Ar-a-rat and so-called ex-prime minister Vulture.

Be that as it may, or "not be," (Hamlet III.i.56) and, to paraphrase that pinko dropout disgusting anarchist Hunter S. Thompson, (Hunter, cf. Nimrod; S. as in snail; Thompson, Old Finnish son; of Rebbe Thom)

As well as wondering what I'm babbling about, you may also wonder why I'm writing this under the table. (If you had not gleamed that from the context, you're too dumb to be reading this clever column - ask the editor to bring back the simplistic Spy on the Media which I could write better anyway and often did and that opinionated leftist, David Burling-On, never noticed.)

Ah, yes, under the table. The king's son was mad and sat under the table, thinking he was a turkey. So the wise man joined him and said "I too am a turkey."

Yes indeed, now you got it. I am the turkey under your weekly table whom only the intellectual princes among our readers will recognize as the truly wise man.

Only the more foolhardy leftist

Separated at birth?

Now it can be told: Some major public figures have near-twins, Morris Ayin reports



Avigdor Kahalani and Marlon Brando: Making the no-goodniks an offer they can't refuse?



King Hussein and Sean Connery: Officers and gentlemen?



Bottom photos: Ezer Weizman. Speak for themselves.



SPEAKING of legs, Sara Netanyahu, whose own off-black control-top panty hose once lasted throughout an entire tete-a-tete with former Jordanian Prime Minister Abdul Karim al-Kabari, presented this year's best import of the year awards to the Jewish Zionist Hosiery Association.



MEANWHILE, down at the other end of Hayarkon Street in Tel Aviv - where a Madonna poster decorated one storefront - Zev Shiff, third cousin to the neighbor of the estranged step-daughter of Uziel Umbescitcyn, who is soon to be Ambassador from the tumultuous Albania, went to work as usual, taking news of the posting in his stride.

You're in Israel. Drive like an Israeli.

GRIPEVINE

Wiseguy falls for Clinton

by FREER GAY TRASHCAN

Who says our country has no empathy? Whee Fulbright scholar and former Arkansas Governor President Bill Clinton was on his way back from the Abraham Lincoln suite after entertaining his new Asian friend Mui E. Guy with scrumptious lemon tarts and fine, freshly-brewed coffee...

SPEAKING of legs, Sara Netanyahu, whose own off-black control-top panty hose once lasted throughout an entire tete-a-tete with former Jordanian Prime Minister Abdul Karim al-Kabari, presented this year's best import of the year awards to the Jewish Zionist Hosiery Association.

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ONE fact that Woodwardesque Ayala Hasson didn't have sources for was what the police

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But one suspects that the
ing Netanyahu wants is to be
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Only the more foolhardy leftist

SPORTS

in brief

Seles wins in first match of '97

KEY BISCAIYNE, Florida (AP) - Monica Seles began another comeback with a victory in the Lipton Championships in her first match this year.

Seles beat Naoko Sawamatsu of Japan 6-3, 2-6, 6-2 on Friday. The match was Seles' first since she broke her right index finger while catching a ball in December. Her return was delayed because her father, Karolj, has been undergoing chemotherapy for stomach cancer.

The match was Seles' first in the Lipton since 1992, and the first in her home state since she became a US citizen in 1994.

Kings fire head coach Garry St. Jean

SACRAMENTO, Ca. (Reuter) - Garry St. Jean, who coached the Sacramento Kings to their first playoff berth in 10 years but never finished above .500 in four-plus seasons, was fired Thursday.

Eddie Jordan, hired by St. Jean as an assistant five years ago, will take over the 28-39 team for the remainder of the season. Assistant vice president of basketball operations Wayne Cooper will join assistants Mike Bratz and Pete Carril on the bench.

In his four-plus seasons with the Kings, St. Jean had a 159-236 (.403) record. He was an assistant under Don Nelson with the Golden State Warriors before joining the Kings.

UEFA may abandon Intertoto Cup

NYON, Switzerland (Reuter) - UEFA has hinted it might scrap the Intertoto Cup because of a lack of interest.

"In terms of the books (accounts) the picture is not very heartening," general secretary Gerhard Aigner wrote in the March edition of UEFA's monthly bulletin.

"The promotion of the competition suffers from the absence of clubs from the large associations, which means that the market is rather restricted."

"...this situation has not improved, and there are moreover no signs that it will improve in forthcoming seasons."

The English, Italian and Spanish football associations all declined to take part in this year's close season tournament, despite the lure of three UEFA Cup places.

Trouser-dropping coach banned for 14 months

RIO DE JANEIRO (Reuter) - A Brazilian coach has been banned from the bench for 14 months after he ran on to the pitch during a match and dropped his trousers.

Itaperuna coach Paulo Mats lost his temper when his team conceded a controversial goal and then had three players sent off during last week's 3-2 home defeat to Vasco da Gama in the Rio de Janeiro championship.

He charged on to the field, ripped off his shirt and ran towards the referee. When police stopped his progress he then ripped his trousers, before being led away ranting at the officials. He later announced he was abandoning football because he was tired of being "scandalously robbed."

Newcastle float valued at \$307 million

LONDON (Reuter) - English premier league club Newcastle said on Friday that their stock market flotation valued the club at £193 million (\$307.4 million).

The offering of 40 million shares was priced at 135 pence (215 cents) per share and would raise £54 million for the club, a statement from Newcastle's investment bank NatWest Markets said. Dealing in the shares will begin on April 2.

England, Fiji advance to rugby sevens last-8

HONG KONG (AP) - Defending champions England had to battle hard to beat Cook Islands but top-seeded Fiji crushed Wales and Namibia yesterday as the English and Fijians advanced to the quarterfinals of the Rugby World Cup Sevens tournament.

Fielding five players from the squad that won the inaugural title in Scotland four years ago, the English whipped Canada 30-7 before battling to a 29-10 victory over the Cook Islands in Pool F.

The Cook Islands, who upset Canada 5-0 earlier, held England to 10-10 at halftime before succumbing in the second half before a capacity 40,000 crowd at the Hong Kong Stadium.

The Fijians, underlined their status as favorites to win the tournament after brushing aside Namibia 66-0, and Wales 35-0 in Pool A.

South Africa were the second-ranked team after yesterday's group play with victories over Ireland 34-7 and Hong Kong 29-5 in Pool B.

In the quarterfinals, South Africa face Five Nations champions France, who won Pool D with a 26-0 victory over Romania and a 40-7 triumph over the US.

New Zealand, the winners of the last three Hong Kong Sevens, defeated Japan 47-0, and Tonga 31-5 in Pool E. The Kiwis face their old rivals Australia in the quarterfinals.

Australia, with star winger David Campese making his final appearance, struggled to a 26-7 win over Portugal in Pool H.

The Australians then went on to beat Scotland 31-19, although the Scots scored two late tries.

Western Samoa face England in the quarterfinals.

The Samoans, the 1993 Hong Kong Sevens champions, blanked Morocco 42-0 and then defeated Argentina 28-12 in Pool C.

South Korea advanced to the main Cup competition because of a superior points-count than Spain in Pool G.

After battling to a 12-12 tie with Spain, the South Koreans beat Zimbabwe 21-10. Spain managed a 19-12 victory over Zimbabwe.

The 24 teams were divided into eight groups of three, with the winner in each group advancing to the main Melrose Cup competition after two days of group play.

ICC seeks new markets and fresh formats

LONDON (Reuter) - Cricket, born and nurtured on the English green, seeks new markets and fresh formats as the sporting world hurtles towards the millennium.

"It is obvious that there is an urgent need to develop the game, both among existing cricket countries and in new areas," an interim report from the International Cricket Council's development committee said.

"If this is not done, cricket will be under threat from other sporting codes and leisure activities." Two radical initiatives suggested by the committee include an annual one-day tournament at Disneyland, Florida, and a biennial World Cup in place of the present four-yearly competition.

"Internationally televised cricket is our No. 1 marketing tool to give global exposure to the game, to inspire our youth to play the game and promote the role models of the game," the reports says.

Disneyland, home of manufactured childhood dreams, is light years removed from pre-industrial England where rural laborers whiled away the long summer nights with bat and ball.

But cricket, in common with other sports, has always had to fight for its existence.

W.G. Grace brought glamor and mass popularity to the game in the Victorian age and helped cricket to evolve into a sport which could be adapted by the public schools and spread across the British Empire.

The sport gained rather than lost support during Australia in the great depression as Don Bradman symbolized the aspirations of thousands of his countrymen and it became something akin to a religion in the West Indies through the exploits of Leerie Constantine, George Headley and Garfield Sobers.

Kerry Packer, who briefly hijacked the game in the late 1970s when he signed up the world's best players for a rival tournament, outraged the traditionalists but brought the game into the modern era with day-night one-day matches and colored clothing.

Outwardly the world game seems healthy, with a global television audience of 1.5 billion for last year's World Cup staged in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

However, ICC members are acutely aware that the battle for spectators and television revenues is more bitter than ever.

"I don't want to spell doom," said committee chairman Ali Bacher, former captain of one of the great South African sides.

"But we have got to recognize that if we don't do anything about it we could have an acute problem...we have to get more people playing." Bacher believes the way forward is to package the game appropriately for its audience.

To entice an American audience, whose atten-

Joseph Hoffman and Ori Lewis: Sports Editors

Arizona stuns Kansas; Providence, N. Carolina, Louisville advance

Minnesota, Kentucky, Utah, UCLA also win in NCAA tourney



UNEXPECTED DELIGHT - Arizona's A.J. Bramlett raises his arms in victory as Kansas's Jacqué Vaughn leaves the court in disappointment following the defeat of the Southwest top seeds 85-82. (Reuter)

NEW YORK (AP) - Kansas was the No. 1 team in college basketball almost all season, but the Jayhawks won't be No. 1 when the season's over.

Arizona, which was knocked out of the tournament by Kansas last year, used its quickness to stun the bigger Jayhawks 85-82 Friday night and advance to the Southeast Regional final.

"The thing I loved all week long was their attitude," Arizona coach Lute Olson said. "It was like, 'You think we're in awe of them? We're not in awe of anybody.'" Freshman Mike Bibby scored 21 points and Michael Dickerson added 20 for fourth-seeded Arizona (22-9) will play 10th-seeded Providence today for a berth in the Final Four.

Providence, which nearly blew an NCAA bid at the end of the regular season, advanced with a 71-65 win over 14th-seeded Tennessee-Chattanooga in the late game at Birmingham, Alabama.

At the East Regional in Syracuse, New York, fourth-seeded Louisville overcame the loss of star DeJuan Wheat with a severe ankle sprain and beat No. 10 Texas 78-63 to reach the final eight.

The Cardinals' opponent in today's regional final will be top-seeded North Carolina, which overcame a seven-point deficit midway through the second half to defeat fifth-seeded California 63-57.

The other regional finals last night were top-seeded Minnesota (30-3) vs. No. 2 UCLA (24-7) in the Midwest, and top-seeded Kentucky (33-4) vs. No. 2 Utah (29-3) in the West.

On Thursday, the four games went into overtime - and one of

the three into double OT.

Top regional seeds Minnesota and Kentucky and second seeds

Utah and UCLA all won to move one victory away from the Final Four in Indianapolis.

In the Midwest Region semifinal in San Antonio, Bobby Jackson scored a career-high 36

points, grabbed nine rebounds and hit a series of key shots down the stretch as Minnesota rallied from a six-point deficit in the first overtime for a 90-84 double-overtime victory over fourth-seeded Clemson.

Jackson became the first player in over three years to score more than 30 points for Minnesota, which improved to 8-0 against ranked teams this season.

Sam Jacobson added 29 points for Minnesota (30-3). Greg Buckner led Clemson (23-10) with 22 points before fouling out. The Golden Gophers, who won their first two contests by an average of 25.5 points, will face UCLA in the regional finals on Saturday.

Cameron Dollar's driving layup with 1.9 seconds to go in overtime lifted UCLA past sixth-seeded Iowa State, 74-73.

Kenny Pratt missed a free throw with 14 seconds remaining and UCLA's Kris Johnson grabbed the rebound but was whistled for travelling. Jacy Holloway inhaled the ball for Iowa State (22-9) and lofted a high pass to Shawn Bankhead, who dunked the ball for a 73-72 advantage.

Dollar took the inbounds pass and drove the length of the court before lofting a high, arching shot over Jacy Holloway and off the glass for the winning basket.

Iowa State called time out but was unable to inbound the ball, forcing a turnover.

Dollar finished with a career-high 20 points. "Before the play, coach had already given me the go-ahead to break it down and go to the rack, so I was already in that frame of mind," Dollar said.

The Bruins (24-7), the national champions two years ago, are in the regional finals for the third time in six years.

Dedric Willoughby had 34 points, including eight three-pointers, for the Cyclones.

At the NCAA West Region semifinal in San Jose, California, second-seeded Utah blew a 14-point halftime lead but recovered for an 82-77 victory over sixth-seeded Stanford. Michael Doleac scored eight of his 16 points in overtime for Utah.

Keith Van Horn scored 25 points before fouling out for Utah (29-3).

The Utes are in the regional finals for the first time since 1966, when they advanced to the Final Four.

Jordan rules as Bulls defeat Pacers

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Michael Jordan vs. Reggie Miller was no contest Friday night as Jordan scored 36 points and helped hold Miller to 18 as the Chicago Bulls defeated the Indiana Pacers 117-98.

Jordan shot 11-of-25 from the field and hit 13 of 14 free throws as he topped the 30-point mark for the 38th time this season, including 11 of his last 15 games.

Miller, meanwhile, had little room to shoot against Jordan and was 5-of-17 from the field, including 2-for-10 from 3-point range.

Scottie Pippen scored 18. Luc Longley and Steve Kerr had 15 each and Dennis Rodman grabbed 19 rebounds. Rick Smith led five Indiana players in double figures with 20.

Heat 98, Lakers 97

In Miami, Willie Anderson hit two free throws with 17.4 seconds left after a basket by Elden Campbell was waved off, and Nick Van Exel missed a jumper at the buzzer as Miami beat Los Angeles. Voshon Lenard paced Miami

with 25 points, while Tim Hardaway and Jamal Mashburn added 21 each.

A 3-pointer by Hardaway, one of 15 by Miami, pulled the Heat to 97-96 with 48.8 seconds left. Van Exel missed a free throw after the Heat were given a technical foul for illegal defense, and Jerome Kersey missed a baseline jumper. Campbell tipped in Kersey's miss, but the basket was waved off and Campbell was called for a loose ball foul on Anderson.

Anderson's free throws put Miami on top, and Van Exel missed a 16-foot jumper at the buzzer.

76ers 112, Nets 110

In Philadelphia, Derrick Coleman's follow-up dunk with two seconds remaining gave Philadelphia a win over New Jersey and broke the Sixers' three-game losing streak.

Coleman's basket came seconds after Sam Cassell was hit with a technical foul by referee Jack Nies for taunting. Cassell had been fouled by Iverson and sank two free

throws to put the Nets up 110-109.

Stackhouse made the technical, then drove to the basket on the ensuing possession and missed, but Coleman was there for the follow.

Stackhouse had 31 points, including 14 in the fourth quarter. Kendall Gill scored 33 points and Cassell had 28 as New Jersey.

Hawks 93, Mavericks 72

In Atlanta, Mookie Blaylock scored 20 points and Christian Laettner had 18 in leading Atlanta over Dallas.

The Mavericks trailed by 20 in the third quarter, but Shawn Bradley made a layup to cut the deficit to nine points, 81-72, with five minutes left. Atlanta then ran off 12 unanswered points to ice its third straight win.

Thursday's Games: Orlando 100, Golden State 95; L.A. Lakers 89, Cleveland 76; Portland 97, Milwaukee 78; Houston 96, Washington 96; Phoenix 113, San Antonio 106; Seattle 123, Denver 97;

Friday's Games: Orlando 104, Boston 99; Charlotte 102, Toronto 97; Philadelphia 112, New Jersey 107; Miami 98, L.A. Lakers 97; Atlanta 93, Dallas 72; Detroit 112, Minnesota 98; Chicago 117, Indiana 98; Vancouver 108, Denver 101; Sacramento 114, San Antonio 110 OT.

Sabres nail down playoff berth with win over Capitals

LANDOVER, Maryland (Reuter) - The Buffalo Sabres Friday became the fifth National Hockey League team to clinch a playoff berth with a 4-1 victory over the Washington Capitals.

Jason Dawe scored twice and Mike Peca had a goal and an assist for the Sabres, who joined Colorado, Dallas, Philadelphia and New Jersey as teams that have booked passage into the post-season battle for the Stanley Cup.

Steve Shields made 30 saves in place of the injured Dominik Hasek as Buffalo won for the fourth time in five games despite tying a franchise-low with a mere 12 shots on the Washington goal.

Buffalo is 13-3-6 in its last 22 games and moved within one point of second place New Jersey and three of first-place Philadelphia in the Eastern Conference chase for home ice advantage through the playoffs.

Dawe's 21st goal gave the

Sabres a 2-1 lead with 6:10 left in the second period. He added his 22nd at 12:14 of the third to open a two-goal cushion.

Peter Bondra was the only Capital to get the puck past Shields, scoring his team-leading 43rd goal for Washington.

In New York, Russ Courtnall's short-handed goal broke a second-period tie and Glenn Healy made 33 saves as the Rangers beat the Detroit Red Wings 3-1.

Mark Messier and Wayne Gretzky also scored for New York.

Messier's 35th goal just 3:13 into the game was career number 574, moving him past Mike Bossy into sole possession of 10th place on the all-time list.

Thursday's Games: Florida 2, Ottawa 2; Pittsburgh 6, Toronto 1; Phoenix 4, Chicago 2; St. Louis 4, Hartford 1; San Jose 2, Vancouver 1;

Friday's Games: N.Y. Rangers 3, Detroit 1; Buffalo 4, Washington 1; Dallas 2, Hartford 0; Colorado 4, Anaheim 3; Tampa Bay 4, Calgary 3, OT.

Patient Bacher puts South Africa on top in third Test v. Aussies

PRETORIA (Reuter) - Opener Adam Bacher batted throughout the day to post a patient, unbeaten 94 and put South Africa in command on the second day of the third and final Test against Australia at Centurion Park yesterday.

The 23-year-old Transvaal batsman provided a study in concentration as South Africa reached 340 for three at the close - a lead of 13 over Australia wherever bowled out for 227 on Friday.

Bacher's innings was spread over six hours five minutes after he had taken 50 minutes to get off the mark in the morning session.

He cut out the hook shot which had twice led to his downfall in the series but still struck 11 boundaries, including a six over midwicket off the luckless Shane Warne.

With Brian McMillan hitting 55 to become the first South African number three to score a

first innings half-century in the 20 Tests of coach Bob Woolmer's reign the home batsman finally struck back against the Australian bowlers.

South Africa had been bowled out for 302 and 130 in losing the Johannesburg Test and 209 and 168 in suffering a similar fate at Port Elizabeth.

Neither Bacher or McMillan gave a chance although both repeatedly played and missed against leg-spinner Shane Warne.

McMillan was also twice struck on the helmet attempting to hook Jason Gillespie bouncers while Bacher was struck painfully on the head and elbow.

The second wicket pair posted South Africa's first century partnership of the series, putting on 102 for the second wicket.

McMillan, who hit eight boundaries, was finally out after two and three quarter hours when he was caught at short leg

from the off spin of Mark Waugh.

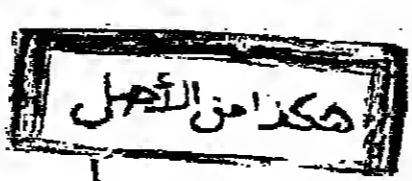
A second century stand between Bacher and Daryll Cullinan, followed as Bacher accelerated after taking almost four hours to reach his 50.

Cullinan, who has been tormented by Warne in the past repoodied by hitting the leg-spinner back over his head in a fluent innings of 47 before he was bowled off an inside edge by Glenn McGrath.

Bacher was unable to reach his maiden Test century before the close but did pass one landmark when he reached 83 to become the first batsman for seven seasons to score 1,000 first class runs in a South African season.

The last man to do so was Roy Pleenar in 1989-90.

Earlier Gary Kirsten had become the 300th Test victim of Australian keeper, Ian Healy who took a routine catch to dismiss the opener off the bowling of McGrath.



Taibans played again as Betar march on

By DEREK FATTAL and ORI LEWIS

The 23rd round of National League soccer action ended this weekend with another fine victory for Betar Jerusalem. The league leaders shattered the hopes of strugglers Hapoel Taiba with a 5-0 defeat...

last three outings. Hapoel Tel Aviv, occupying the other relegation berth looked blind to their impending fate as they put on another inept display to end losers away to Hapoel Haifa.

their stubbornness paid off with an equalizer from import Bogdan Jovicic in the 37th minute. The relief proved shortlived when Beersheba's Giovanni Rosso converted a penalty awarded in the 45th minute when Stad Halilovic was fouled from behind in the box.

Ice, The... Dolar's driving... State called time out... finished with a career... go-ahead to break it... Dollar said.

State called time out... finished with a career... go-ahead to break it... Dollar said.

vn playoff... ver Capitals... in Africa... Aussies

National League

Table with 14 columns: P, W, D, L, GF, GA, Dif, Pts. Lists teams like Betar Jerusalem, Hapoel Beersheba, Hapoel Petah Tikva, etc.

Second Division

Table with 14 columns: P, W, D, L, GF, GA, Dif, Pts. Lists teams like Hapoel Ashdod, Ironi Ashdod, Maccabi Netanya, etc.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Team, Points, Goals. Lists teams like Zahirim Holon, Hapoel Taiba, Hapoel Petah Tikva, etc.

SECOND DIVISION

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Team, Points, Goals. Lists teams like Maccabi Kfar Karna, Maccabi Netanya, Hapoel Kiryat Shimon, etc.

This week's winning Toto line: 1,1,1,2,1,1,2,2,1,2,1,1,1,1. This week's winning Toto Plus line: 1,2,2,2,1,1,2,2,1,2,2,1,1,1,1. This week's Tototako line: 7, 9, 12, 20, 26, 27, 31.

tired after their excellent midweek effort in reaching the last-8 of the State Cup and were unable to keep up the pace with Rishon in Friday's only fixture.

United go 6 points clear after win over Everton

LONDON (AP) - Manchester United opened up a six-point lead atop the Premier League standings with a 2-0 victory at Everton yesterday while Brazilian star Juninho maintained Middlesbrough's turnaround by lifting them off last place and out of the relegation zone.

Goals by Norwegian Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and French star Eric Cantona downed Everton at Goodison Park as the Reds opened up a big lead over second place Liverpool and third place Arsenal, who meet each other at Highbury tomorrow.



DETERMINATION - Manchester United's Ole-Gunnar Solskjaer (center) scores for the visitors at Goodison Park yesterday. (Reuters)

At the other end, 'Boro made it four wins in a row with a 1-0 triumph over Chelsea with Juninho scoring the clincher in the 53rd minute. Bryan Robson's team achieved the victory despite the absence of Italian star Fabrizio Ravanelli, who is under treatment back home in Italy for a hamstring injury.

seven points with five games to go. Chesterfield 0; Crewe 1; Peterborough 1; Gillingham 1; Wyecombe 0; Millwall 0; Watford 1; Notts County 1; Stockport 2; Plymouth 0; Wrexham 1; Sarnbury 0; Rotherham 2; Walsall 1; Barnley 3.

Division Three: Brighton 2; Cardiff 0; Cambridge United 2; Chester 2; Fulham 1; Hartlepool 0; Exeter 0; Carlisle 1; Leyton Orient 2; Lincoln 3; Mansfield 1; Northampton 0; Scarborough 3; Exeter 4; Swansea 1; Darlington 1; Torquay 1; Scunthorpe 2; Wigan 2; Barnet 0; Scottish Premier Division: Dundee United 2; Raith 1; Dunfermline 2; Celtic 2; Aberdeen 3; Aberdeen 1; Motherwell 0; Hearts 1; Rangers 1; Kilmarnock 2.

Barcelona to face Fiorentina in Cup Winners' Cup

LAUSANNE (Reuters) - Three-time champions Barcelona will meet Fiorentina in the semifinals of this season's Cup Winners' Cup while holders Paris St Germain take on Liverpool.

Ice skaters disappoint in Lausanne

After his promising start in the European Figure Skating Championships in Lausanne, Switzerland, Misha Shmerkin ended in 15th place overall.

CLASSIFIEDS. Includes sections for DWELLINGS, SITUATIONS VACANT, HOUSEHOLD HELP, LOST & FOUND, and WHERE TO GO. Contains various real estate and service advertisements.

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with columns: Symbol, Last Price, Change. Includes AMEX and NASDAQ indices.

Table with columns: Symbol, Last Price, Change. Lists various Israeli companies like Amgen, Intel, and others.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table with columns: Symbol, Last Price, Change. Lists international market indices.

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WALL STREET REPORT

Dow falls 15.49 points

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks fell Friday on worries that the strong dollar would hurt US exports, while bonds slid on expectations the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates next week.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 15.49 points lower at 6,804.79. For the week, it lost 130.67 points.

In the broader market, advancing issues led declines 1,241 to 1,154 on active volume of 534 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

Wall Streeters worried the strong dollar was eroding the profit picture of multinationals, and they focused on Eastman Kodak Co., which tumbled 9-1/4 to 79 and International Business Machines Corp., off 4-3/8 to 132-1/2, in consolidated trading.

For some time, analysts have cautioned that multinationals would begin to suffer from the strong currency. With concrete evidence now emerging, they said the concerns could become more widespread.

"Often this starts with something signalling to the investing community that there may be a problem," said Hugh Johnson, chief investment officer at First Albany Corp. "Then, it starts to become less specific."

US Treasuries ended down 4/32 at 95-23/32, to yield 6.97 percent, up from 6.96% Thursday.

Even amid lackluster trading, expectation abounded that the Fed will tighten monetary policy next week.

Kevin Flanagan, money market economist at Dean Witter Reynolds Inc., said there was little, if any, market reaction to a report saying there was still only a 50-50 chance the Fed would tighten, or raise interest rates, next week.

"I agree only... that you can't say with 100% certainty that the Fed will move next week," Flanagan said.

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CURRENCY REPORT

Dollar falls against yen on concern over trade friction

NEW YORK (AP) - The dollar fell against the yen Friday on concerns about trade friction and, briefly, worries that Washington would limit the greenback's appreciation.

Traders anxious to get a feel for how much more the dollar can climb against the yen — it has gained more than 50 percent since its post-World War II low in April 1995 — grasped at minor news and a later-denied

comment by Federal Reserve Vice Chairman Alice Rivlin to provide direction.

Against European currencies the dollar was generally lower, falling against the German mark on continued worries about a delay in the creation of Europe's monetary union. Notably, the greenback gained on the Swiss franc.

The dollar finished in New York at 122.85 yen, down from 123.75 yen Thursday, and 1.6861 marks, down from 1.6935.

The British pound strengthened to \$1.6033 from \$1.5881 on continued speculation about an interest-rate increase in England, worries triggered by signs of economic strength there.

"The markets are sort of grasping for incentive and inspiration," according to Lisa Finstrom, a currency analyst at Smith Barney.

She said traders are working hard to figure "how much more dollar strength can we anticipate against the yen."

The dollar weakened against the yen overnight on strengthening Japanese bond yields, which attract investment funds. That carried over into US trading, where two reported comments moved the market.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

FTSE drops for fifth consecutive day

LONDON (Reuters) - British shares recovered some of their poise after sharp falls earlier in the week but still closed lower for a fifth day amid domestic political worries and fears of rising interest rates.

The FTSE 100 index ended 3.3 points lower at 4,254.8, falling 169.5 from a week ago.

FRANKFURT - German bourse trade ended with the DAX index firmly in positive territory, having caught up with its electronic IBIS counterpart, ongoing strength of the dollar and resilience of debt market underpin trade and the market had little difficulty shaking off fears of interest rate hikes in the US and a slide on Wall Street overnight.

The DAX-30 index ended at 3,298.24, up 33.57 points, down 61.05 on the week. In post-bourse trade the DAX index stood at 3,288.52.

TOKYO - Tokyo stocks ended higher as investors, resuming trade after a public holiday, stepped up buying of banking sector shares that had suffered heavy selling in the past few months. The 225-share Nikkei average added 139.45

points or 0.75 percent to finish at 15,633.16, up 709.52 from a week ago.

JOHANNESBURG - The South African stock market was closed for a national holiday. The market will reopen today.

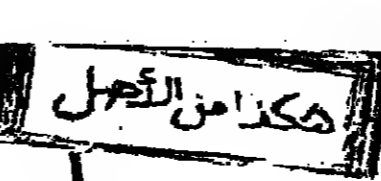
PARIS - French shares closed with a gain of more than 1% but off the day's best levels, prices retreated in the late afternoon as the Dow softened and the dollar consolidated some of its gains.

PARIS - French shares closed with a gain of more than 1% but off the day's best levels, prices retreated in the late afternoon as the Dow softened and the dollar consolidated some of its gains.

ZURICH - Swiss shares ended 1% higher in a recovery from Thursday's marked losses, but dealers said the correction may not yet be over.

The Broad Swiss Performance Index advanced 25.90 points or 0.92 percent to end at 2,854.56, down 80.41 from last Friday.

PAGE INVESTMENTS logo and text.



CRITIC'S CHOICE

PURIM

HELEN KAYE

Despite Friday's terrorist attack, Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Street from the fountain to Ben-Gurion Blvd. will be closed to traffic from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a monster Purim party...

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Tonight is your last chance to hear the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra play Beethoven's Second Symphony and Shostakovich's 13th Symphony...

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

JERRY MAGUIRE - Tom Cruise stars in this bittersweet comedy about a fast-talking athletic agent whose integrity gets him fired...



The fun local production of 'The Jungle Book' plays at the Noga Theater in Jaffa.

don't, and he uses their slightly pic-in-the-skies ideas and emotions as a source of gentle humor.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S ROMEO & JULIET - Purists may be put off by the zany pop art sparkle and flash of this movie...

TV

13:00 Flatfoot

13:30 Half Menasha - comedy set in biblical times
14:00 Just Us
14:30 Tic Tac
15:00 Strelmel and Jeans - clothing conventions in the haredi world

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel

ETV 2 (23)

15:30 All Together Now
16:00 The 18th Monte Carlo Circus Festival
17:00 Zombi
17:30 High-Tech Culture
18:00 Media File
18:00 Half Menasha - comedy set in biblical times

CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Johnny Quest
6:55 This Morning - with Gabi Gazit and Rivka Michael

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and 4 rows (19:30, 20:00, 20:30, 21:00) listing TV programs like News flash, The Biggest Adverts in the Country, Muppets Tonight, etc.

CHANNEL 3

15:30 Plots in Shushan - the story of Purim
16:00 Stage Magic - the Purim story as a succession of magic feats

CHANNEL 4

15:30 Holy Koran
15:05 Johnny Quest
15:30 Problem Child
16:00 French programs

CHANNEL 5

6:30 Bodies in Motion
16:00 Bodies in Motion
16:30 Showjumping
17:00 Dangerous Games

CHANNEL 8

6:00 Open University - Archeology, Music of the Hassidim, Bernard Venet

CHANNEL 9

6:30 Cartoons
10:30 Alan Parim - live broadcast with Michael Vardi

CHANNEL 10

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel

CHANNEL 11

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include 'Small cars go for service', 'A proposal about the fringe in the London area', etc.

SOLUTIONS

Solutions for the cryptic crossword, including words like 'CONSCRIPTED', 'INFLAMED', 'LETTER', etc.

QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include 'Truly', 'Adhere', 'Measuring device', etc.

Solutions for the quick crossword, including words like 'TRULY', 'ADHERE', 'MEASURING DEVICE', etc.

CABLE

ITV 3 (ps)

16:15 The Thirst of Years
17:00 Weekly Column
18:10 Amores

MOVIES

Movie listings for various theaters including Jerusalem Cinematheque, Noga Theater, and others. Lists titles, times, and cast members.

Vertical text on the left margin, including 'salem Post', 'he involvement with PA...', 'of Makdesh...', 'errying the b...', 'back', 'the Approc...', 'to unlikely that...', 'the television se...', 'd on Page 4', 'the children's p...', 'the week's s...', 'the movie'.

PA arrests five Hamas activists

By JON IMMANUEL

Five Hamas activists, including the recently released Ibrahim Makadmeh, were arrested by the Palestinian Police on Friday, Gaza security sources reported.

Speaking at an Islamic Salvation party "Jerusalem Rally" in Khan Yunis, attended by many Hamas and Islamic Jihad supporters, Makadmeh lauded Friday's suicide bombing in Tel Aviv, saying "the mujahedin should blow up the enemies of Allah to stop the bulldozers of Netanyahu."

His words were greeted with cheers from many in the crowd of 10,000. Makadmeh said attacks will continue until "Netanyahu curses the day his mother bore him."

Arafat ordered Makadmeh released three weeks ago after he was held a year without charges.

The move was an apparent gesture to Hamas, to encourage its participation in a dialogue with the Palestinian Authority, and as a sign to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that suppressing Hamas could not continue if Israel took actions that embarrassed him.

PA Minister of Communication Imad Falouji, who once was a senior Hamas activist, attended the Khan Yunis rally and said afterwards that he regretted the attack "but Israel pushed us to this."

Sheikh Ahmed Baher, a leading Hamas preacher, called on the PA to "to open camps to train every Palestinian in the use of guns" and to end all talks with Israel.

The rally was attended by Abdullah Shami, an Islamic Jihad spokesman who has not been seen publicly since his release from jail six months after the Beit Lid suicide bombing in January 1995. Upon his release he pledged to look for peaceful ways to work with the PA.

On Friday he said, "We should

throw this Oslo agreement which disunites us into the garbage can of history. Palestine - Jaffa, Haifa, Ramle - is calling us to liberate it with all means."

Several Fatah supporters also attended the rally. Nahed Rayess of the legislative council, called for unity to "confront the policy of taking Jerusalem from us."

Elili Wohlgelegen adds: At Har Homa all was quiet yesterday, after some 200 Palestinians demonstrated there on Friday. Three policemen were injured by thrown rocks; one of them was seen bleeding after being hit in the head. Two IDF soldiers were also lightly injured.

Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said the demonstrators tried to march down to the construction site from the nearby village of Umm Tuba, but police chased them back up the hill.

Protestors also burned tires and chanted "Netanyahu, you have no business here." "Now it is a war of the people, not of diplomacy," said stone-thrower Khalil Kawasmeh, 17. "We want to teach Bibi a lesson, that when he challenges an entire nation, he cannot win."

There were 1,200 extra police reinforcements on duty on Friday, both at Har Homa and on the Temple Mount. Ben-Ruby said there were no disturbances on the Temple Mount over the weekend.

Tim adds: Seven youths were arrested yesterday afternoon during disturbances in Nazareth that followed a march and rally organized by the Islamic Movement.

Following the rally, youths started to throw stones and bottles at policemen and at a police car. The police car's windows were broken, and several other cars were also damaged.



Ibrahim Makadmeh (Reuters)



Palestinian Police attempt to stop protesters throwing stones at IDF soldiers during clashes in Hebron yesterday. (Reuters)

HEBRON

Continued from Page 1

them when they tried to engage Israeli troops more closely. The clashes were some 100 meters from Shuhada Street, near where dozens of settlers live.

Behind the rioters were thousands of chanting supporters, shouting "down with peace, up with Hamas" and "Allah is Great." Twice they

burned the Israeli flag to excited chanting before charging down the road toward Israeli positions.

Preventive Security Chief Jibril Rajoub, now stationed in Hebron, rushed down from Jerusalem on Friday. Yesterday he appeared periodically on Shallah Street during the rioting and then left without intervening.

Rajoub was in contact with the IDF and in H2. Israeli officers speaking Arabic into field tele-

phones could be heard conversing with Palestinian officers.

"We have the determination and the ability to control the situation but the reason is very great because of Netanyahu's crazy policy," Rajoub told reporters.

Regarding the settlers' complaints about the IDF response, the IDF spokesman said that on Friday the army sent additional forces to Hebron and that the army had stressed to the Palestinians that they

are responsible for maintaining the peace under their jurisdiction. The IDF said the spokesman, will continue to safeguard the Jewish community in Hebron.

In an unrelated incident on Friday night, a busload of children from the Jordan Valley settlement of Na'ama were hit with stones in Outja. According to Jordan Valley settlement spokeswoman Tami Afiya, there were no injuries.

US vetoes second UN Har Homa resolution

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - For the second time in two weeks, the US on Friday cast a veto in the UN Security Council to block a resolution that would have called on Israel to stop construction on Jerusalem's Har Homa, though it cautioned that its veto did not indicate American support for the project.

The 15-member council also issued a statement expressing its "revulsion" at the suicide bombing at Tel Aviv's Apropo cafe.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan condemned the Tel Aviv bombing. In a statement, Annan also appealed to the parties "not to allow odious

acts of this nature to derail the peace process."

Friday's failed resolution was considered milder than its predecessor, which the US vetoed on March 7. Unlike the first resolution, Friday's resolution did not refer to the Har Homa project as "illegal." Instead, it called for Israel to "immediately cease construction of the Jebel Abu Ghneim settlement in East Jerusalem as well as all other Israeli settlement activities in the occupied territories."

The vote was 13-1, with the US voting against. Costa Rica abstained. The resolution had been sponsored by Egypt.

The US cautioned that its veto should not be

misunderstood.

"No one should interpret the opposition of my government to this resolution as an expression of support for the construction now going on at Har Homa-Jebel Abu Ghneim. It is not," US Ambassador Bill Richardson said Friday.

Richardson repeated that the UN is not the appropriate forum to debate the peace process, adding that "such interference can only harden the positions of both sides."

After the first US veto, the General Assembly on March 13 overwhelmingly passed a resolution condemning the Har Homa project. Assembly votes, however, are not binding.

WEATHER

Jerusalem 6-10
Tel Aviv 12-17
Haifa 11-17
Tiberias 11-19
Afula 10-16
Samaria 6-10
Beer Sheva 10-16
Dead Sea 14-22
Elat 14-23

Forecast: Scattered showers in the northern and central regions.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND	PRECIP.
Amsterdam	50	57	10	ptly cloudy
Buenos Aires	59	68	28	rain
Chicago	41	54	22	cloudy
Copenhagen	52	58	10	cloudy
Frankfurt	52	58	10	cloudy
Geneva	52	58	10	cloudy
Hong Kong	78	84	19	rain
London	59	65	13	cloudy
Los Angeles	63	71	7	cloudy
Madrid	50	57	10	cloudy
Manila	78	84	19	rain
Moscow	52	58	10	cloudy
New York	48	55	10	cloudy
Paris	52	58	10	cloudy
Rome	52	58	10	cloudy
Stockholm	48	55	10	cloudy
Tokyo	52	58	10	cloudy
Zurich	50	57	10	cloudy

Winning cards

The winning cards in Friday's Mifal Hapais daily Chance drawing were the king of spades, the ace of hearts, the queen of diamonds and the 10 of clubs.

Peres, Barak fail to narrow gap over unity gov't

By SARAH HONG

Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres and would-be party leader Ehud Barak conferred on Friday over the national unity government controversy, which has thrown Labor into turmoil. The two, who are on opposite sides of the issue, failed to convince each other nor to narrow the gap between them, though they may soon meet again. This intention to keep talking is seen in Labor as the one auspicious outcome of the talks.

The two met in a Tel Aviv restaurant along with Labor activist Giora Eini, who for many years was the behind the scenes go-between and conciliator in Peres's feuds with the late Yitzhak Rabin.

Though no formal invitation to join the government has come from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Peres enthusiastically supports Labor's participation in a unity government, while Barak hotly opposes it.

Peres argues that Labor's entry into a broad coalition is necessary in order to protect the peace process. Most Labor insiders agree, however, that Peres must lead Labor into a unity coalition soon in order to enter it as the leading Labor representative and thus cement his leadership before Barak replaces him as party chairman in June.

Because it is in Peres's interest to join the government, it is equally in Barak's interest not to do so.

Barak confirmed last night that he spoke with Peres, but would not comment on what was said. The meeting came after Peres and Barak clashed vociferously last Thursday at the Labor central committee, when Peres pushed for national unity and Barak said the only action Labor should take regarding Netanyahu was to bring him down.

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BOMBING

Continued from Page 1

throughout the downtown area, blew out windows of nearby buildings and vehicles. Furniture and people were hurled meters from the scene, some into the middle of Sderot Ben-Gurion.

Apropo shift manager Ro'i described what he saw seconds before the bomb exploded opposite him.

"I saw a strange man, scruffily dressed, sit down at a table outside on the terrace," he said weeping. "The waitress was just about to go outside when there was a terrific boom. Everything was hurled in all directions. I tried to help a woman whose leg had been crushed to smithereens. Everyone was screaming."

Minutes later some 20 Magen- David Adom ambulances arrived at the scene to evacuate the wounded to the city's Ichilov and Wolfson hospitals and to Tel Hashomer's Sheba and Peha Tikva's Beilinson-Rabin Campus hospitals. Massive forces of police, headed by the city's police chief, Cmdr. Shlomo Aharonishky, and backed up by Civil Guard volunteers, border policemen, and other forces, arrived and sealed off the area.

Bomb squad officers, helped by explosive-sniffing dogs, scoured the surrounding areas for possible additional bombs, but none was found. The Hevra Kadisha's identification squad also arrived to search for body parts and to help identify the victims.

"We have had warnings of possible attacks recently, but we were not notified of specific places," police Insp.-Cen. Assaf Hefetz said at the scene. He denied that increased forces in the Har Homa area and other problematic districts in the territories may have facilitated the terrorist's entry to Tel Aviv.

"We don't want to put the public in a state of panic or to force people to stay home," he added. "There are constant warnings of attacks. Now we have to guard the various events during Purim and maybe increase forces even afterwards."

Former ambassador to the UN Gad Ya'acobi was sitting inside the packed restaurant at the time of the blast.

"I was only lightly injured," he said. "I saw dozens of people

strewn on the floor. Doors were wrenched from their hinges from the impact of the blast."

Children, some in their Purim costumes - including the baby Shani - were lightly wounded.

"Even before the attack we were on full alert in readiness for possible attacks here and during Purim," said Aharonishky. "But we cannot hermetically seal off all sites, public places, or restaurants." Police arrested 19 Palestinians illegally in Israel during raids Friday night and yesterday.

Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo, after consultation with security authorities, announced yesterday that Purim celebrations would continue in the city, and reiterated that Tel Aviv would not surrender to terror.

PM

Continued from Page 1

"Anyone who thinks this nation can be vanquished by terrorist bombs doesn't know it. The nation is much stronger than they imagine and they won't defeat it, and we will know what steps to take to make this clear."

Batsheva Tsor adds: Egypt President Hosni Mubarak and Arafat called President Ezer Weizman following the bombing to express their condolences to the families of those killed and to send wishes of recovery to the wounded. Weizman received a similar call from US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

terrorist activity.

"We will not let this terrible crime go unanswered, we will react according to our policy and will not compromise," Netanyahu said. "The idea that we should be extorted by heinous murderers, that the murderers of children and women should tell us not to build in Jerusalem and what to do, does not occur to me even for a fraction of a moment."

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